

Description of Reptiles from South America, supposed to be New.

By EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.

COLUBER *Spixii*.

Description.—Head elongated, large, covered above with nine plates; the rostral plate is large, pentagonal, incurvated below, the upper extremity is rounded; the anterior frontals are large, quadrangular; the posterior frontals are larger than the anterior; they are pentagonal; the vertical plate is large, pentagonal, broad anteriorly, the sides incurvated to receive the margin of the superior orbital plates; the superior orbital are large, pentagonal, the posterior margin the broadest; the occipital plates are large, pentagonal, and are joined anteriorly to the vertical, the supra-orbital, and the post-ocular plate; there are two nasal plates with the nostril placed between them; there is one loreal plate (♀) which is quadrangular; the anterior orbital plate is large and also quadrangular, the upper margin broader than the inferior; there are two post-ocular plates, both of which are quadrangular; there are eight superior labial plates, the seventh and eighth the largest; the eyes are large and projecting; irides —; body long, somewhat slender, thickest near the middle; tail long; body covered above and on the sides with large quadrangular scales, which are smooth; the scales upon the tail are also smooth, quadrangular.

Abdominal scuta 164 : subcaudal 113.

Colour.—Upper part of head sea-green; this colour predominates upon the sides as far as the inferior margin of the orbit; margin of upper jaw straw colour; upper part and sides of body and tail also sea-green; the chin, throat, and under part of body and tail are straw colour.

Dimensions.

			<i>Fct.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	0	$1\frac{5}{8}$
Greatest breadth,	-	-	0	$\frac{2}{4}$
Length of body,	-	-	3	11
Length of tail,	-	-	1	7

COLUBER *fuscus*.

Description.—Head of moderate size, elongated, covered above with nine plates; the rostral plate is hexagonal, rounded above; the anterior frontals are of moderate size, pentagonal; the posterior frontals are larger than the anterior, pentagonal; the vertical plate is long, pentagonal, broad anteriorly; the superior orbitals are quadrangular, the posterior margin somewhat rounded; the occipital plates are large, pentagonal, they are joined anteriorly to the vertical, the supra-orbital, and the upper post-ocular plate; there are two nasal plates, which are rather large, with the nostril placed between them; there is one ant-ocular and two post-ocular plates; the anterior is larger than either of the posterior, its anterior margin the broadest; there is one loreal plate, which is long and quadrangular; the eye is large and projecting; irides —; there are nine superior labial plates, the seventh and the eighth are the largest; the neck is

slender; the body is long and also slender, thickest at the middle; the tail is long and tapering; the scales upon the tail and body are smooth and quadrangular.

Abdominal scuta 190: subcaudal 115.

Colour.—Head above and upon the sides, as far as the superior margin of the orbit, of a dark brown colour; the upper part and sides of the body are also brown; the chin, the throat, and under part of the tail, are straw colour.

Dimensions.

				<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>	<i>Lines.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	0	1	0
Greatest breadth,	-	-	-	0	0	10
Length of body,	-	-	-	2	6	0
Length of tail,	-	-	-	0	13	0

COLUBER Pickeringii.

Description.—Head large, rounded posteriorly, covered above with nine plates; the rostral plate is large, hexagonal, curved inferiorly; the anterior frontals are large and pentagonal; the posterior frontals are hexagonal, larger than the anterior; there are two nasal plates, with the nostril placed within them; the vertical plate is large, broad anteriorly, incurvated at the sides, where it receives the internal margin of the superior orbital plate; the occipital plates are large, pentagonal, they are joined anteriorly to the vertical, the supra-orbital, and the upper post-ocular plate; there is but one ant-ocular plate; there is one loreal plate, which is quadrangular; there are two post-ocular plates, which are also quadrangular; the eye is large and projecting; there are nine superior labial plates, the seventh and eighth the largest; the neck is slender; the body is long, thickest at the middle; the tail is long and tapering; the scales upon the tail and body are quadrangular,

Colour.—Head, body and tail, are of a sea-green colour; upper and lower jaw, chin, throat, abdomen, and under part of tail, straw colour.

Abdominal scuta 160: subcaudal 128.

Dimensions.

				<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	0	1½
Greatest breadth,	-	-	-	0	1
Length of body,	-	-	-	4	10
Length of tail,	-	-	-	2	1?

COLUBER vittatus.

Description.—Head of moderate size, depressed, covered with nine plates; the rostral plate is hexagonal, incurvated below; the anterior frontals are small and quadrangular; the posterior are larger than the anterior, they are pentagonal; the vertical plate is of moderate size, it is hexagonal, and broader anteriorly; there is but one nasal plate; the nostril is placed near its anterior margin; there is a loreal plate, which is quadrangular; there are two post-ocular

and one ant-ocular plate, which is pentagonal; the supra-orbital plate is pentagonal, the inferior margin being curved to receive the upper margin of the eye; the occipital plates are pentagonal, larger than the other plates; the eyes are of moderate size and projecting; there are eight superior labial plates, the sixth and seventh are the largest; the neck is slender; the body of moderate size; the tail is short and tapering; the body and tail are covered with smooth quadrangular scales.

Colour.—Head above and upon the sides, as far as the inferior margin of the orbit, black; irides —; body black above, the cuticle being removed, ash-coloured upon the sides; there are two white vittæ, extending, one on each side of the body and tail, as far as the extremity of the latter; a row of minute white spots extends along the sides of the neck and anterior half of the body, more indistinct in the former; there is also upon the sides of the neck a row of dark coloured spots, more or less oval; under surface of chin, throat, abdomen and tail, of a light straw colour.

Abdominal scuta 156: subcaudal 36.

Dimensions.

			<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	0	$\frac{5}{8}$
Greatest breadth,	-	-	0	$\frac{7}{8}$
Length of body,	-	-	1	$\frac{5}{8}$
Length of tail,	-	-	0	5

COLUBER fuliginosus.

Description.—Head small, depressed, covered like the rest of this genus with nine plates; the rostral plate is of moderate size, incurvated below, rounded superiorly; there are two anterior and two posterior frontal plates, the former are quite small, the latter much the larger, they are quadrangular; the vertical plate is small, hexagonal, broadest in front, more extended in the lateral than the longitudinal direction; there are two occipital plates, which are larger than either of the others; the supra-orbital plates are quadrangular; there are two posterior orbital plates, and there is no ant-ocular plate; the loreal plate extends backwards as far as the eye; there are two nasal plates, with the nostril placed between them; there are six superior labial plates, the sixth is the largest; the eyes are small and slightly projecting; the neck is slender; the body of moderate size, covered with smooth quadrangular scales; the tail is tapering.

Colour.—Body and tail dark brown; upper part of head and sides brown as far as the inferior margin of the orbit; irides —; upper jaw, chin, throat, under parts of abdomen and tail, light straw colour—the latter mottled with brown.

Abdominal scuta 158: subcaudal 28.

This species very much resembles the *C. fuscus*, for the young of which it might be taken; it differs from it, however, in the form of the head, which is much more depressed, and in the arrangement and form of its plates; the tail also is much shorter.

<i>Dimensions.</i>				<i>Fect.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
Greatest breadth,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{3}{8}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	1	2
Length of tail,	-	-	-	0	$1\frac{3}{4}$

COLUBER Ashmeadii.

Description.—Head of moderate size, covered above with nine plates, of these the occipital are the largest, they are pentagonal; the vertical plate is hexagonal; it is joined anteriorly to the posterior frontal and to the ant-ocular plates, posteriorly it is connected with the occipital; its sides are incurvated to receive the supra-orbital plates; the supra-orbital plates are pentagonal, they are joined superiorly to the vertical; the external margin is incurvated to form the upper portion of the orbit; there is one ant-ocular and two post-ocular plates; the posterior frontals are large and pentagonal; the anterior are smaller in size and quadrilateral; there are two nasal plates, with the nostril placed between them; there are eight superior labials, of these the seventh is the largest; the eye is of moderate size and somewhat projecting; the neck, and posterior part of the body, is slender; the body is much thicker in the middle; tail rather long and tapering.

Colour.—Head of a brownish-ash colour above and upon the sides; body ash coloured; a series of scars or blotches, of a darker colour than the rest of the body, extend from the neck to near the extremity of the tail, these are bordered with white; there is a dark coloured vitta extending from the posterior part of the eye to the posterior extremity of the upper jaw; a dark coloured blotch is observed extending from the occiput along the upper part of the neck, on each side, a short distance; the chin, throat, abdomen, and under part of tail are of a light straw colour.

Abdominal scuta 191: subcaudal 113.

This species I have named after my friend Mr. Samuel Ashmead, to whose kindness I am indebted for the opportunity of describing all the species contained in this paper.

<i>Dimensions.</i>				<i>Fect.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{3}{4}$
Greatest breadth,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{3}{2}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	1	$\frac{3}{2}$
Length of tail,	-	-	-	0	$5\frac{1}{4}$

COLUBER variegatus.

Description.—Head of moderate size, flattened above, compressed laterally, covered with nine plates; of these the occipital are pentangular; the vertical is small and hexagonal, it is joined anteriorly to the posterior frontals, laterally to the supra-orbital, and posteriorly to the occipital plate; the supra-orbital are

pentagonal, broadest posteriorly; the posterior frontals are large and quadrangular; the anterior frontals are much smaller than the posterior, they are pentagonal; the supra-orbital plates are hexagonal; there are seven or eight superior labials, of these the sixth is the largest; the eyes are very large and projecting; there is one anterior orbital plate, which is quadrangular, and extends from the eye to the nasal plate; there are two nasal plates, with the nostril placed between them, which is small; the neck and body are slender, thickest near the middle, and very much compressed; the tail is of moderate length and tapering; the body and tail are covered above and upon the sides with smooth quadrangular scales.

Abdominal scuta 178: subcaudal 96.

Colour.—Predominating colour of head, body and tail, brownish mingled with ash; a series of transverse bands or fasciæ, of a brown colour, margined with white, extend across the body and tail from the neck to the extremity of the latter; those upon the body are separated from each other by intervening spaces on the upper half, about half an inch in length; under surface of chin, throat, abdomen and tail, of a straw colour, with a row of brownish spots running along the centre of the latter; they exist also, but are indistinct, upon the neck; the brownish transverse bands, above described, extend a short distance upon the abdomen; those on the lower half nearly meet; those on the tail meet in the centre.

Dimensions.

				<i>Fect.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{3}{2}$
Greatest breadth,	-	-	-	0	$\frac{5}{6}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	1	1
Length of tail,	-	-	-	0	$4\frac{1}{2}$

COLUBER atratus.

Description.—Head small, depressed, covered above with nine plates; the rostral plate is hexagonal, incurvated beneath; the anterior frontals are quadrangular, the vertical small and hexagonal; the occipital plates are pentagonal; there is a small quadrangular plate extending from the eye to the nasal plate; the eye is small; the irides —; there are six plates upon the margin of the upper jaw, of these the fourth is the largest; the body is long and slender, covered with small, quadrangular, carinated scales; the tail is short and tapering.

Abdominal scuta 145: subcaudal 46.

Colour.—A whitish band extends across the occiput; upper part of body and tail slate colour; chin, throat, abdomen and tail, of a straw colour.

Dimensions.

					<i>Inches.</i>
Length of the head,	-	-	-	-	$\frac{3}{8}$
Greatest breadth,	-	-	-	-	$\frac{1}{4}$
Length of body,	-	-	-	-	$10\frac{1}{4}$
Length of tail,	-	-	-	-	$2\frac{1}{4}$

This species resembles very much our *C. punctatus*, but wants the spots upon the abdomen. The latter, however, are occasionally absent in the *punctatus*; it may, therefore, notwithstanding the remoteness of its habitat, very possibly be the same species. It would appear to be common, four specimens having been observed in the collection.

TRIGONOCEPHALUS *Colombiensis*.

Description.—Head of moderate size, triangular, presenting two small plates in front, and a row of smaller scales immediately behind; the rest of the upper portion of the head is covered with small polygonal scales, those in front of the supra-orbital ridges are somewhat larger than the others; the rostral plate is large and hexagonal; the nostril is of moderate size; there is a deep fossa between the eye and the nostril; the eyes are oval, rather large, and projecting; the supra-orbital ridges are very prominent; there are seven superior labial plates, of these the fifth is the largest, it is pentagonal; the neck is slender; the body is triangular, thickest at the middle; the tail is short, and tapering to a point; the plates upon the under part of the tail are bifid; the body is covered above and upon the sides with quadrangular carinated scales.

Abdominal scuta 207: subcaudal 70.

Colour.—Superior part of head, body and tail, of a light yellowish ash-colour; upon each side of the body is a row of blotches, triangular in shape, of a darker colour than the rest of the body, approaching to olive; the intervening spaces present numerous spots of the same colour; there is a row of dark coloured spots extending along each side of the abdomen; under surface of throat, abdomen and tail, are straw colour.

Dimensions.

			<i>Feet.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head,	-	-	0	$\frac{7}{8}$
Greatest breadth,	-	-	0	$\frac{1}{2}$
Length of body,	-	-	1	$5\frac{1}{4}$
Length of tail,	-	-	0	$2\frac{1}{8}$

This species resembles very much the *Trigonocephalus lanceolatus*, Opper. or *Vipere jaune* of the French, but differs from it in its habitat, (the latter being found in Martinique,) and in the number of its plates. In the *lanceolatus* there are 225 to 228 plates upon the abdomen, and from 59 to 61 upon the tail.

LEIOLEPIS *Auduboni*.

Description.—Head pyramidal, covered above with numerous polygonal scales; those upon the front of the head are much the largest; they are seventeen or eighteen in number; the rostral plate is pentagonal; the frontal plates are quadrangular; the nasal plates are large and pentagonal; the nostrils are large and directed forwards; there is a small quadrangular plate between the nasal and the frontal plate; there are five plates along the margin of the upper jaw, they are oblong, quadrilateral; the eyes are oval; the eyelids are covered

with numerous small granules; the tympanum is circular and placed a little below the surrounding surface; the extremities are of moderate size, the anterior reach as far as the extremity of the snout: the form of the body is slender, and compressed; it is covered with scales, which vary according to their situation—in the back they are hexagonal and carinated, in the sides they are more or less circular, with indistinct carinæ, in the abdomen they are quadrangular, and strongly carinated; the tail is more than twice the length of the body, it is covered with carinated scales.

Colour.—The head and upper parts of body are of a brownish chocolate colour, variegated with spots of green and yellow; tail chocolate colour; under surface of chin, throat, abdomen and extremities, straw colour, with numerous dark coloured spots.

Dimensions.

	<i>Inches.</i>
Length of head, - - - -	$1\frac{1}{8}$
Greatest breadth, - - - -	$\frac{3}{4}$
Length of body, - - - -	4
Length of tail, - - - -	$11\frac{1}{4}$

The specimens above described were found in the Republic of Columbia, within two hundred miles of Caraccas. As far as I have been able to ascertain they are new, with the exception of the *Coluber atratus*, and the *Trigonocephalus Colombiensis*, both of which are somewhat doubtful; the latter resembles very much the plate of the *lanceolatus*, as given in the *Regne Animal* of Cuvier, except that the triangular spots upon the sides meet upon the back, whereas, in our specimens—of which there were two—they are distinct. It differs from it also, as above stated, in the number of the abdominal and sub-caudal plates. Among them was a specimen of the *Ampleistana fuliginosa*. They were all preserved in spirits.

Descriptions of New Species of African Reptiles.

By EDWARD HALLOWELL, M. D.

CALOTES versicolor.

Description.—Head pyramido-quadrangular, longer by one-third in the antero-posterior direction than it is broad posteriorly; its upper surface is covered with polygonal scales of nearly uniform size, carinated for the most part; occipital scale large, hexagonal; the region in front of the eyes is convex; in its centre are two scales strongly carinated; the posterior or superior one is pentagonal; the inferior, which is the longest, is quadrilateral; supra-orbital regions very convex, leaving a marked depression between them; nostrils large, situated near the posterior margin of a large triangular and strongly carinated scale; rostral plate of moderate size, hexagonal, smaller than upon the chin, which is triangulo-pentagonal; imme-